

## **R7-2-307. High School Equivalency Diplomas**

A. For the purposes of this rule, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "DANTES" means the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support.
2. "Department" means the GED Division of the Arizona Department of Education.
3. "GED Test" means the General Educational Development Test developed by the GEDTS and administered at an official GED Testing Center.
4. "GED Testing Center" means a testing center established by the Department for the purpose of administering GED tests and providing GED testing services pursuant to the requirements established by GEDTS and state jurisdictional rules.
5. "GEDTS" means the GED Testing Service, Washington, D.C.
6. "USAFI" means the United States Armed Forces Institute.

B. Eligibility requirements. Any individual who is 16 years of age or older and who has officially been withdrawn from school may take a GED Test.

1. Individuals shall be required to provide the GED Testing Center with positive identification and proof of age; and
2. Individuals who are at least 16 years of age and under 18 years of age shall also be required to provide:
  - a. A signed and notarized statement of consent from a parent or legal guardian;  
and
  - b. A letter from the last school attended verifying that the individual has officially withdrawn from the school.

C. Issuance of a diploma. The Department shall issue a high school equivalency diploma to any individual who has not received a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate or diploma if the individual:

1. Meets the eligibility requirements specified in subsection (B) and has received passing scores on the GED Test; or
2. Is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and has received passing scores on the GED Test through USAFI or DANTES provided that the individual's last high school enrollment was in an Arizona high school. Individuals who have taken the GED Test through USAFI or DANTES shall send their military permanent record and application card to DANTES with a request that the official GED Test scores and application card be forwarded to the Department; or
3. Has received passing scores on the GED Test taken at GEDTS, provided that the Department receives an official transcript directly from GEDTS.

D. The Department shall keep a record of test scores for each individual who has taken the GED Test.

E. The Arizona Department of Education may collect fees for the issuance of High School Equivalency Diplomas and Transcripts. Fees established pursuant to this section shall not exceed ~~\$20~~ \$40.

1. The State Board of Education will deposit, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 35-146 and 35-147, fees collected under this section in the GED Testing Revenue Account within the Arizona Department of Education budget, to be used to offset costs of providing these services.

2. If the State fee for General High School Equivalency Diplomas and/or Transcripts presents a financial hardship for the examinee, he/she may request a fee waiver.
3. A fee waiver shall be granted if all of the following apply:
  - a. Applicant presents documented proof of Arizona residency.
  - b. Applicant submits a completed Fee Waiver Request Form, available from the State GED Testing Office or from any official GED Testing Center.
  - c. Applicant demonstrates sufficient need for a fee waiver. This may include , but is not limited to the following: proof of eligibility for public assistance and/or federally subsidized housing; residence in a foster home; enrollment in a program for the economically disadvantaged such as Upward Bound; or participation in a free or reduced lunch program.